

JUNE 3rd, 1909.

The fifty-second regular meeting was held in the usual place.

PAPERS READ.

Notes on the Hemipterous genus *Occhalia*.

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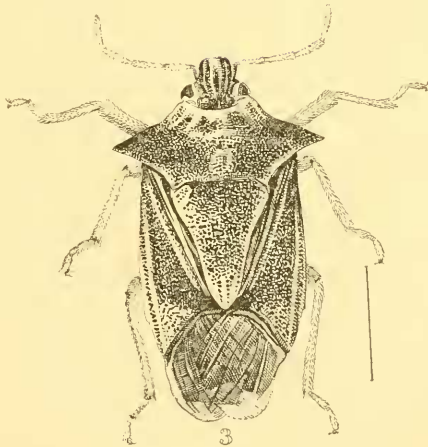
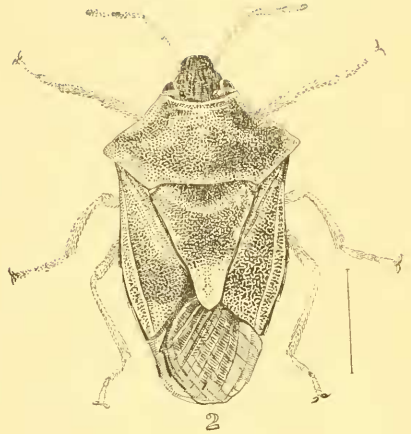
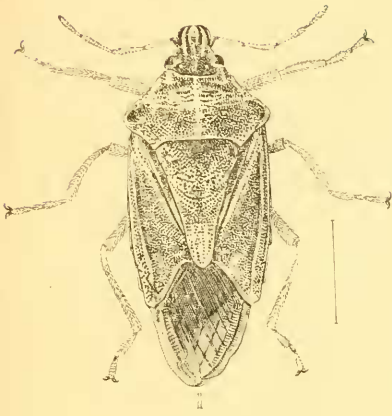
The genus *Occhalia* is a typical Cimicine, restricted to Australia, New Zealand and the Hawaiian Islands. It may be divided into two subgenera, the typical, containing only *O. consocialis*, from Australia and New Zealand, and *Hawaicicola* (nov.) with *grisea* (the type) and *kaonohi*, sp. nov., confined to these islands, the prosternum (1) in these two last having a little lobe on each side in front.

The australo-maorian *consocialis* is, like the hawaiian *grisea*, exceedingly variable in colour; in all the few specimens that I have seen, the pronotal angles are acute and prominent, perhaps a little more so than in any *grisea*. The male pygophor is very similar to that of the other species, but I have only one male which is perhaps not quite mature.

*O. consocialis* is carnivorous. Bergroth cites a correspondent as authority that it "se nourrit des cadavres de divers animaux" (1891, Rev. Ent., x, 202). Froggatt states that it feeds on larvae of the Lepidopteron *Phalaenides* (*Agarista*) *glycine*, which it finds on Vines, etc., and of the Coleopteron *Galerucella semipulata* which defoliates garden Fig-trees, ornamental trees, etc. "On a warm summer day, where the caterpillars are plentiful on the Vines, these bugs may be observed running about with the remains of a caterpillar hanging on their beak, or else quietly at work sucking up the juice of a freshly attacked victim" (1902, Agr. Gaz., N. S. Wales, 321). This carnivorous habit is well known in the Cimicinae, and I have only recently received some nymphs of the closely allied New Zealand species *Cermatulus nasalis* with caterpillars of *Asaphodes megaspilata* (on *Leptospermum scoparium*), attached to their beaks, from my friend Mr. George Howes of Wellington.

*O. consocialis* (also known as *schellebergii*) is apparently well distributed over Australia and Tasmania, as well as New Zealand. The record from the Philippines is probably erroneous.

(1) Schouteden, (1907), Gen. Ins., LII, 75, incorrectly says "pronotum."



Kirkaldy—On the genus *Occhalia*.

1. *O. kaonohi*.

2. *O. grisea*.

3. *O. grisea* var. *pacifica*.

